CAPSULE SUMMARY BA-2907 Caton's Log Cabin 825-827 Frederick Road Catonsville, Baltimore County ca. 1787 Private

The modest dwelling, known as Caton's Log Cabin, is situated at 825-827 Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville. Constructed circa 1787, the house predates the town of Catonsville and the commercial development that eventually lined both sides of the Frederick Turnpike. Located on land originally owned by Charles Carroll, the vernacular dwelling is reminiscent of the early development of Baltimore County and later the settlement of Catonsville. The log cabin was constructed for and occupied by Richard and Mary Caton while their future house, Castle Thunder, was being built. Rehabilitated to serve as commercial store in the late 19th century, the former dwelling has been extensively altered, enlarged to include the adjacent freestanding building, and renovated in the 20th century, obscuring all evidence of the log structure within.

The main block of the five bay wide, wood frame building is rectangular in form with a series of 20th century additions. It rests upon a random-coursed, uncut granite foundation and is clad with square-butt wood shingles. A side gable roof with asphalt shingles covers the building, pierced by a single interior brick chimney. The roof has a wide overhang and a raked wood cornice with interior beading at the gable ends. Close scrutiny of the roof, and the asymmetry of the façade, insinuates the present structure is composed of two buildings (originally freestanding) that appear to have been linked between 1877 and 1899. The façade of the vernacular building reflects its present commercial use with slightly projecting storefront windows flanking two separate entries, documenting the building's one-time use as two commercial stores.

1. Name of	Property		-			
historic	Caton's Log Ca	bin				
other	The Friendly Fr	ramer				
2. Location						
street and number	825 Frederick F	Road				_ not for publication
city, town	Baltimore					_ vicinity
county	Baltimore					
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and mailing	g address	ses of all owners	)	
name	Beverly L. Bray	, Jr.				
street and number	825 Frederick F	Road			telephone	410.788.3107
city, town	Baltimore		state	Maryland	zip code	21228-4506
Contri Contri Deteri	ibuting Resource i ibuting Resource i mined Eligible for mined Ineligible fo rded by HABS/HA ic Structure Repo	f Additional Data  n National Register District n Local Historic District the National Register/Maryla r the National Register/Mary ER rt or Research Report at MH	nd Regis			
6. Classifica				- <del>1</del>		<u> </u>
Category districtX_building(s)structuresiteobject	Ownership —publicX_privateboth	Current Function agricultureXcommerce/tradedefensedomesticeducationfunerarygovernmenthealth careindustry	resctra	cant/not in use		Noncontributing  buildings  sites  - structures  - objects  - Total  f Contributing Resources  r listed in the Inventory

7. Description		Inventory No. BA-2907		
Condition				
excellent good	deteriorated ruins			

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

altered

fair

The modest two-story building at 825-827 Frederick Road in Catonsville is believed to have originally been constructed circa 1787. The oldest portion of the building, said to be log construction, has been obscured within the current five bay wide wood frame building. The main block of the building is rectangular in form with a series of 20<sup>th</sup> century additions. The present structure rests upon a random-coursed, uncut granite foundation and is clad with square-butt wood shingles. A side gable roof with asphalt shingles covers the building, pierced by a single interior brick chimney. The roof has a wide overhang and a raked wood cornice with interior beading at the gable ends. Close scrutiny of the roof, and the asymmetry of the façade, insinuates the present structure is composed of two buildings (originally freestanding) that appear to have been linked between 1877 and 1899. The façade of the vernacular building reflects its present commercial use with slightly projecting storefront windows flanking two separate entries, documenting the building's one-time use as two commercial stores.

#### **EXTERIOR**

The façade of the building faces north to Frederick Road and is dominated by a large storefront windows. Set upon a parged foundation, the slightly projecting storefront windows are composed of expansive plate glass windows with metal surrounds. Between the storefronts are two recessed square entries. The eastern entry holds a metal door with recessed panels and nine-lights. The western entry, which has not been used since the interior of the building was rehabilitated to serve as one store rather than two, has a paneled wood and glass door. A narrow transom, now covered with wood, marks the top of the entry. The storefront has a projecting entablature of metal. This entablature, extending the width of the storefront, has a stepped architrave and frieze with ogee bed molding and a boxed cornice. The top of the entablature is clad with asphalt shingles. This 20<sup>th</sup> century addition supports the commercial sign advertising the occupants of the store, "THE FRIENDLY FRAMER."

The second story of the main block, above the storefront is asymmetrically pierced by five standard window openings. Each opening of the wood shingle clad wall holds a replacement 1/1 vinyl window with louvered wood shuttered, wood sills, and square-edged lintels that abut the overhang of the roof.

The adjacent building at 829-831 Frederick Road largely obscures the west elevation. The narrow alley between these two buildings is gated and locked. Single window openings on the first story and in the gable end of the west elevation have been boarded shut.

The rear, or south elevation, of the main block is entirely obscured by a two-story and a one-story additions that connect to a concrete block garage at the southwest corner of the property. Addressing the main building, the first story is dominated by a flat roof wood frame addition with square-butt wood shingles. This addition has a single entry opening with a flush wood door in the west end. The eastern end has a paired 1/1 window with narrow surrounds and mullions. The flat roof of the addition is clad with asphalt sheets. Over the addition, on the second story of the building, is a single window opening now covered with

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plywood in the western end. A narrow replacement 1/1 window and a small one-light fixed window mark the center of the elevation. A four-light sliding window has been installed in the eastern end. A shed roof dormer is located on the main block, just west of the chimney. This wood structure, clad with vertical plywood siding has a single entry and a 1/1 window. The one-light flush door provides access to the wood fire escape that extends from the dormer, along the roof of the one-story addition, and the rear of the building. All of the windows on this elevation are vinyl.

The garage addition, constructed of concrete blocks, abuts the wood frame building at the southwest corner. As no interior survey was conducted at the request of the owners, it is not known if this addition is connected on the interior to the main block. The addition is composed of three stepped bays, the deepest bay at the southern end. Devoid of openings on the rear and side elevations, the garage has two double-wide garage door openings with paneled wood roll-up doors with brick lintels and a single flush entry. A flat roof of asphalt shingles with a boxed cornice covers it.

The east elevation is comprised of the main block of the building and the rear additions. A single window with square-edged casings pierces the first story of the main block. The opening has been boarded shut to hold an air conditioner. A metal fire escape extends across this window to a flush single-leaf door on the second story. A 1/1 replacement vinyl window with a wood sill and narrow casing is centered in the side gable. The letters "BRAY ELECTRIC RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WIRING" have been applied to the building between the second story and the upper gable. A one-story enclosed shed roof porch on the east side augments the two-story shed roof addition on the rear of the main block. This former porch has been enclosed with wood shingles and a band of six six-light wood casement windows. The northern elevation of this porch has a single-leaf nine-light wood door and is covered by the extension of the roof. A wood balustrade with square posts lines the edge of the porch to the north, adjacent to the metal fire escape. The second story of the rear addition has a single 1/1 replacement window with a wood sill and narrow casings. The one-story flat roof addition to the south has two 1/1 vinyl windows with wood sills and square-edged casings.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey, although the owners indicated no historic materials were extant.

8. Signific	ance	Inve	Inventory No. BA-2907		
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below		
1600-1699 <u>X</u> 1700-1799 <u>X</u> 1800-1899 <u>X</u> 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology X architecture art X commerce communications community planning conservation	<ul> <li>economics</li> <li>education</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>entertainment/</li> <li>recreation</li> <li>ethnic heritage</li> <li>exploration/</li> <li>x settlement</li> </ul>	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:	
Significance da	tes c. 1787-1899		Architect Unknown		
Specific dates	c. 1787		Builder Unknown		
Evaluation for:	National Register	N	Maryland Register	X _not evaluated	

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The modest dwelling, known as Caton's Log Cabin, is situated at 825-827 Frederick Road in the heart of Catonsville. Constructed circa 1787, the house predates the town of Catonsville and the commercial development that eventually lined both sides of the Frederick Turnpike. On land originally owned by Charles Carroll, the vernacular dwelling is reminiscent of the early development of Baltimore County and later the settlement of Catonsville. The log cabin was constructed for and occupied by Richard and Mary Caton while their future house, Castle Thunder, was being built. Rehabilitated to serve as commercial store in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the former dwelling has been extensively altered, enlarged to include the adjacent freestanding building, and renovated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### History of Catonsville and Caton's Log Cabin

Catonsville's development began earlier than that of most communities in the county. During colonial times, the Baltimore Iron Works Company owned the land, which later became the site of the community. When the landholdings of the company were divided among its members in 1810, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, received a large tract of land on the north and south sides of the Frederick Turnpike. Carroll was awarded lots 61, 104, 105, and 153. Lot 61 accounted for the land presently bounded by Frederick Road, Fairfield Drive, Brook Road, and Hilton Avenue. Lot 153 was also on the south side of Frederick Road and is roughly bounded by a line lying between Bloomsbury and Mellor Avenues to the east, a tract of land known as Taylor's Forest to the south, and Sanford Avenue to the west. Lots 104 and 105 were directly adjacent to one another and lay to the north side of Frederick Road between Winters Lane and Wyndcrest Avenue. The northern boundary was irregular, being bounded by land grants Cannon's Lott (1707), Partner's Search (1785), and Teal's Meadow (1762).

Following the division of the land by the Baltimore Iron Works Company, Carroll conveyed the property to his son-in-law, Richard Caton, to develop the property. Due to Caton's financial difficulties at that time, Carroll

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Chartered in 1805, the Frederick Turnpike was also called Frederick Avenue during the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, and by 1930 was known as Frederick Road.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> George C. Keidel, *Colonial History of Catonsville*, Bicentennial Edition edited and annotated by Ed H. Parkinson, (Catonsville, MD: The American Bicentennial Committee of Catonsville, 1976), Appendix G.

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retained legal title to the property until 1822. Under Carroll's direction, Caton divided the land contained in lots 104, 105, and 153 into twenty smaller lots fronting Frederick Road. "The frontage of these lots ranged from 99 ft. to over 300 ft., and the depths varied from just under 200 ft. to nearly a mile." These twenty lots comprised the original village of Catonsville, originally called Catonville(the "s" was added around the 1830s). It was Caton's intention to sell 99-year leases to these lots. However, as title to the land was yet held by Caton, Carroll conveyed the leases. Carroll eventually transferred the land to Caton in 1822.

The land on which the Caton's Log Cabin stands was one such leasehold estate. The log cabin was reportedly constructed to serve as the home of Richard and Mary Caton before the construction of Castle Thunder in 1787. In 1817, Lot 17 on which the log cabin stands was leased for 99 years to Frances Feelemeyer for the cost of forty-six dollars per year. According to the 1818 tax assessment, the improvements on Feelemeyer's property were valued at \$80.6 Catonsville soon became a small crossroads settlement, with houses and businesses lining both sides of the Fredrick Turnpike to serve the needs of travelers moving to and from the outlying agricultural regions of Baltimore. By the 1830s and 1840s, the village had become a popular stopping point for the steady stream of wagon and stagecoach traffic. Ingleside Avenue was constructed during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, connecting Catonsville to Franklintown, further expanding the commercial and residential importance of the village. "By 1859 the *Baltimore County Advocate* reported that Catonsville contained four taverns, twelve rum mills, six stores, two blacksmiths, two wheelwrights, four shoe shops and a harnessmaker." Aside from the many rum mills, the commercial establishments in the village supported the traffic along the Frederick Turnpike that was journeying to and from the city of Baltimore.

The leasehold estate for Lot 17 was transferred in 1849 to Mary Loggers and again in 1855 to Caspar Kimmet for \$1,200. The following year, Kimmet sold the property for a profit, receiving \$1,400 from John G. Ruff. Ruff owned the property for twelve years, until he sold the land to Andrew Marker in 1868. Despite his sale of the property, Ruff continues to be listed as occupying the lot on the 1877 Hopkins Map of Catonsville. However, by this time, Lot 17 was owned by August Schotta, who purchased the land in 1876 for \$900 from Marker's estate.

In 1897, the Catonsville Argus refered to Caton's Log Cabin as the oldest house in Catonsville. The log cabin had been converted to use as a shop for A. Schotta who, according to the sign above the entry, was a boot and shoemaker. According to local history, John Schotta operated a boot making shop in the front of the house,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Keidel, p. 102.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Edward Orser and Joseph Arnold, Catonsville 1880 to 1940 from Village to Suburb, (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, Publishers, 1989), p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*, (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 298-299.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Vertical files, Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Brooks and Rockel, p. 299.

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from which students at St. Timothy's Hall purchased boots for their military uniforms. At this time, the house did "not look aged, for the old original logs are weather-boarded, and the house is quite modernized." In 1899, still under the ownership of Schotta, the building appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as a commercial building selling boots and shoes. At this time the main block of the building was listed as two-stories in height with a one-story porch to the east and a one-story addition on the rear. The size of the structure, noted as a square building on the 1877 map, has grow by 1899 to capture the one-time freestanding building at 827 Frederick Road. Thus, the building has a rectangular plan. Additionally, there were two one-story outbuildings at the rear of the lot. By 1904, the building featured a one-story porch on the façade and continues to be listed as a boot and shoe store. Interestingly, the 1910 Sanborn maps show the same footprint of the building, but its use has been returned to domestic.

Depicted the same on the 1919 maps, a change once again appears on the 1925 maps, following the sale of the building to John M. and Viola E. Flannigan in 1922 for \$4,000. Apparently, John Flannigan ran a shoe store in the building through the 1960s. The return to commercial use is reflected on the 1925 Sanborn map, which lists the building as a store. At this time, the two outbuildings were demolished and replaced by a one-and-a-half story garage in the southeast corner of the lot. As of 1930, there is another one-story addition on the rear of the house and a one-story addition on the rear of the garage. The one-story attached garage that currently sits on the rear of the building was constructed by 1958 and the one-story front porch had been removed. The garage that appears on the 1925 and 1930 maps was demolished by 1958, having been replaced by a two-story, three-car garage. In 1972, John Flannigan, Jr. sold the property to Angelo and Christine Frasca who owned the building for three years before selling it to Beverly L. Bray, Jr. in 1975. The Bray family, who at one point ran Bray Electric, a residential and commercial wiring shop, from the log cabin, continues to own the property. However, the wiring shop has been moved to the neighboring building and the log cabin now serves as both a residential and commercial building. On the first story of the building, there is a framing shop called the Friendly Framer, while the second floor is leased as an apartment.

<sup>8 &</sup>quot;Old Buildings," Catonsville Argus, April 10, 1897.

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Chain of Title:

January 20, 1817:

Charles Carroll leased to Francis Feelemeyer

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 141 Folio 42

February 10, 1840:

Francis Feelemeyer to Mary Loggers Land Records of Baltimore County,

Liber TK 298 Folio 202

April 18, 1855:

Benjamin C. Barrol, Executor of Mary Loggers, deceased, and Elizabeth Herbert to Caspar Kimmet

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 11 Folio 506

September 26, 1856:

Caspar Kimmet to John G. Ruff Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 16 Felio 247

Liber 16 Folio 347

August 27, 1859:

John G. Ruff to Arthur McCafferty Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 27 Folio 57

December 2, 1863:

Arthur McCafferty to John G. Ruff Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 39 Folio 298

August 25, 1868:

John G. Ruff to Andrew Marker Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 59 Folio 280

October 24, 1876:

Sophia E. Harper, Executrix of the estate of Andrew Marker, to August Schotta

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 99 Folio 364

July 24, 1922:

Charles H. Schotta, Administrator of the estate of August Schotta to Viola E. and John M. Flannigan

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 558 Folio 259

September 10, 1962:

John M. Flannigan to John M. Flannigan, Jr.

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 4042 Folio 492

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June 30, 1972:

John M. Flannigan, Jr. to Christine and Angelo Frasca

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 5281 Folio 453

September 1, 1975:

Christine and Angelo Frasca to Beverly L. Bray, Jr.

Land Records of Baltimore County

Liber 5565 Folio 671

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#### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification (1680-1815) Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870) Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Modern Period (1930-Present)

Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

Known Design Source:

Unknown

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Keidel, George C. Colonial History of Catonsville, Bicentennial Edition edited and annotated by Ed H. Parkinson. Catonsville, MD: American Bicentennial Committee of Catonsville, 1976.

Orser, Edward and Joseph Arnold. Catonsville 1880 to 1940 From Village to Suburb. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1989.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Catonsville, Maryland: 1899, 1904, 1910, 1919, 1925, 1930, and 1958.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem Massachusetts.

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

Less than one acre

Less than one acre

Baltimore West, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property, known as Caton's Log Cabin, is located at 825-827 Frederick Road in Catonsville, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 101, Parcel 993. The building has been associated with the site since its construction circa 1787.

#### 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robin J. Weidlich, Laura Trieschmann, and Chirstopher V. Novelli, Architectural Historian	
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	
street & number 5420 Western Avenue		
city or town Chevy Chase, Maryland		

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

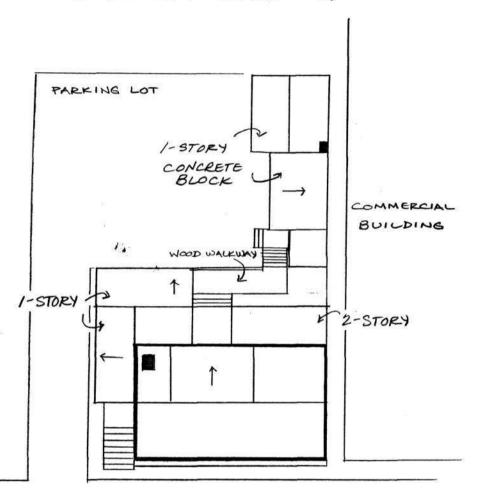
Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Pllace Crownsville, MD 21032 410-514-7600



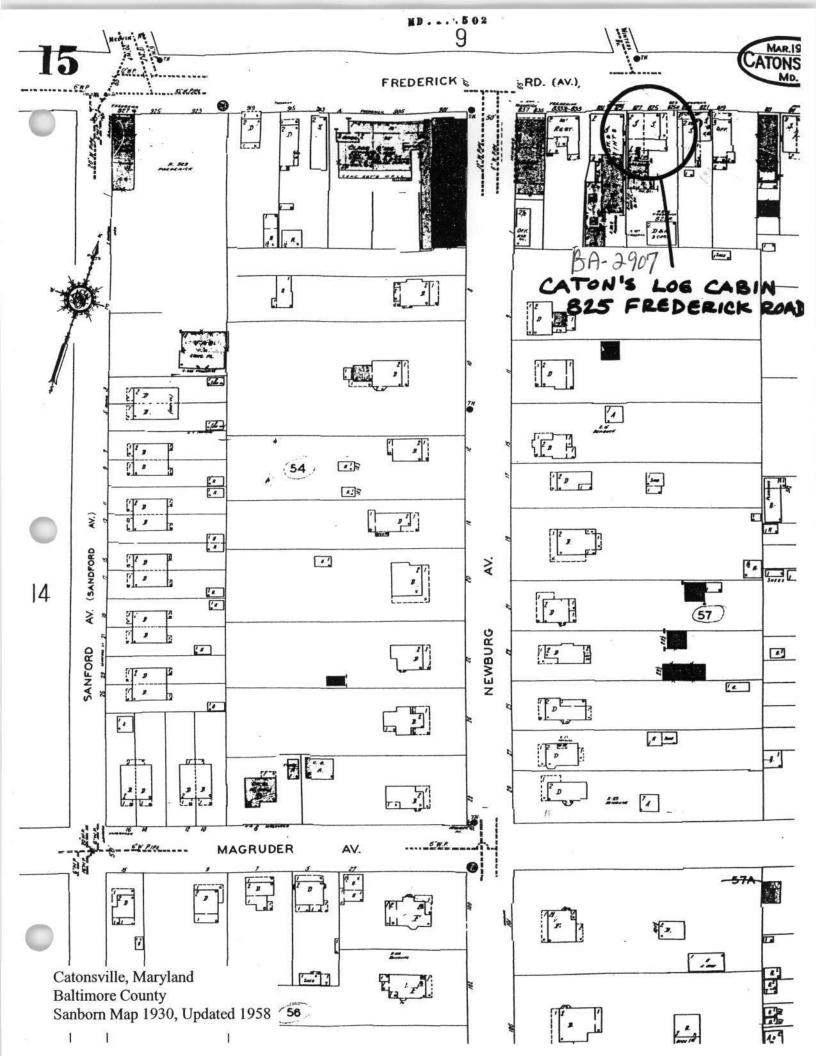
BA-2907

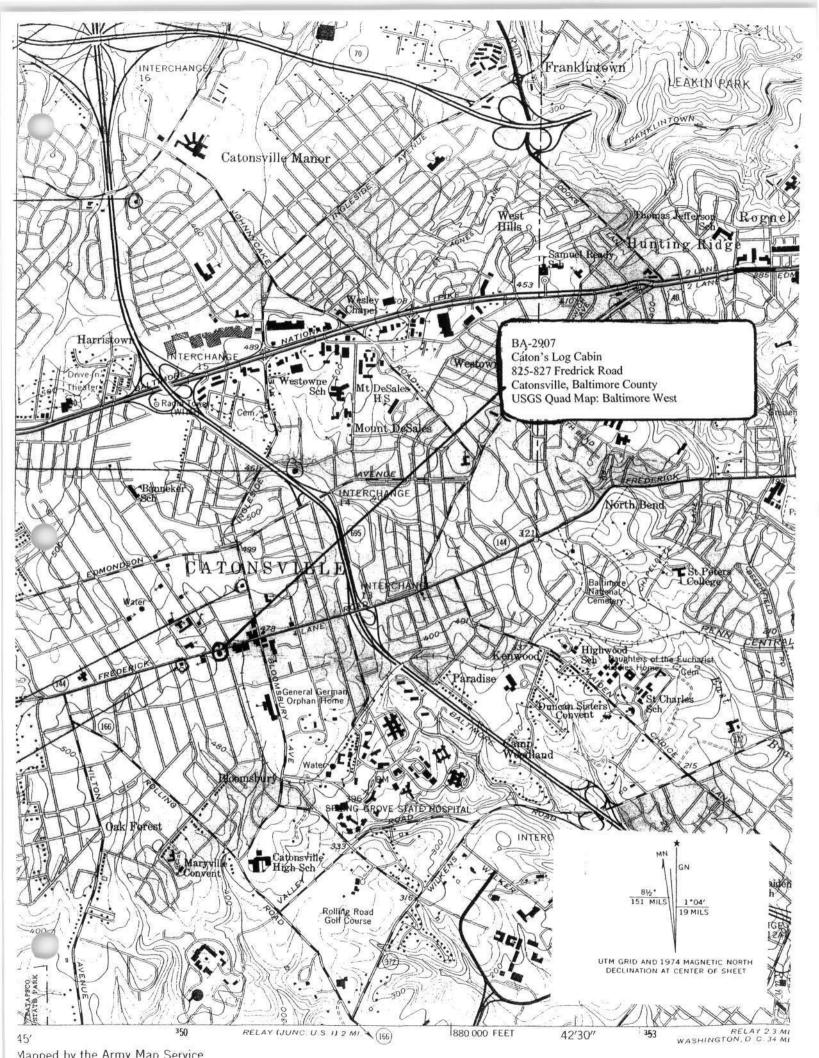
CATON'S LOG CABIN 825 FREDERICK ROAD CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE NI



FREDERICK ROAD







BA 2907 CATON'S LOG CABIN 825 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE BALTIMORE COUNTY TRACERIES 3/00 MARYLAND SHPO NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTH 1 OF 4



BA 2907 Caton's Log Cabin 825 Frederick Road, Catonsville Baltimore County Traceries 1/00 Maryland SHPO east elevation LOOKING SOUTHWEST



BA 2907 Caton's Log Cabin 825 Frederick Road, Catonsville Baltimore County Traceries 1/00 Maryland SHPO south elevation LOOKING NORTH



BA 2907 CATON'S LOG CABIN 825 FREDERICK ROAD, CATONSVILLE BALTIMORE COUNTY TRACERIES MARYLAND SHPO GARAGE LOOKING WEST 4 OF 4